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## **Sen. Allen sponsors bill to recognize Purple Heart recipients**

**LANSING** – State Sen. Jason Allen, R-Traverse City, has sponsored a bill to allow for a monument near the state Capitol honoring Purple Heart recipients.

“Recipients of Purple Heart medals risked or gave their lives while fighting to protect the freedom and liberties we enjoy on a daily basis,” Allen said. “I am proud to sponsor this great piece of legislation that will honor all Purple Heart recipients.”

The Purple Heart is awarded to members of the armed forces of the United States who are wounded in combat and posthumously to the next of kin in the name of those who are killed in action or die of wounds received in action. It is specifically a combat decoration.

The legislation was requested by the Military Order of the Purple Heart – Department of Michigan, which will also cover the expenses of the monument’s placement. The national organization is seeking to place identical monuments at each state capitol. To date, monuments have been placed at 43 state capitols across the nation.

Allen’s legislation will allow the monument to be placed in Veterans Memorial Park, which is located at the state Capitol complex in Lansing.

“In a time when our armed forces continue to fight to protect democracy, it is important to pay homage to those injured or killed in the line of duty, both past and present,” Allen said. “While this legislation will not heal wounds or bring back those who have passed, it will show that the state will never forget the sacrifices of our servicemen and women.”

According to the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Purple Heart is the oldest military decoration in the world in present use and the first American award made available to the common soldier. It was initially created as the Badge of Military Merit by one of the world's most famed and best-loved heroes – General George Washington.

The legislation, Senate Bill 764, has been referred to the Senate Committee on Senior Citizens and Veterans Affairs.

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